

whose beautiful dark green males are such a familiar sight in favoured areas. How often are they to be seen sitting around on foliage overlooking a stream, apparently doing nothing? Are they not often, in fact, watching over their invisible mates? One forenoon in the New Forest I walked along a stream and saw them, perhaps five or six males to the mile. Returning in the evening, none were visible. Instead, I found neat little groups of the four severed wings, in the grass at regular intervals. Had those males each become meals for predators, diverting attention from their egg-laying mates and sacrificed for the benefit of the species?

I have used the name *Agrion*, but notice that in the last 3 or 4 years that name has suddenly been dropped from the British List without explanation. *Agrion* Fabricius, 1775 (: 425) is far the most senior generic name in Zygoptera. Under it, Fabricius included just two species, *Libellula virgo* L. and *L. puella* L., both composites as indeed they were for Linnaeus. Its seniority ensures that it must be valid, and employed for the genus containing whichever of the two species was first validly designated its type species. As both species are British, so inevitably must be *Agrion*.

Alas; in about 1963 the Lessonhall section of the River Waver was "cleaned up". All the flora, including those in the river bed, were cleared; and June visits in 1965 and 1985 found no damselflies.

### Reference

Fabricius, J. C. 1775. *Systema Entomologiae* etc. [32] + 832 pp. Flensburgi et Lipsiae.

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RHEUMAPTERA UNDULATA L. (LEP.: GEOMETRIDAE) IN. N. W. KENT. — Two females in very good condition were found in my garden m.v. trap on the night of July 14th, 1987. There are very few recordings for N. W. Kent, and these all in the second half of the last century, the most recent being in 1882 for the famous Birch Wood which was the southerly extension of the woodland in the immediate vicinity of my home (J. Chalmers-Hunt, *Butterflies and Moth of Kent*, 1981). Although the local woodland would seem to provide a suitable habitat, being on a clay soil and possessing numerous rides bordered by tallows, the nights of July 14th and 15th were marked by the capture of immigrant moths in widely scattered parts of Britain, and the meteorological conditions may have encouraged dispersal of some native species. I am inclined to believe that these specimens were not of local origin. — B. K. WEST, 36 Briar Road, Dartford, Kent.